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28 September 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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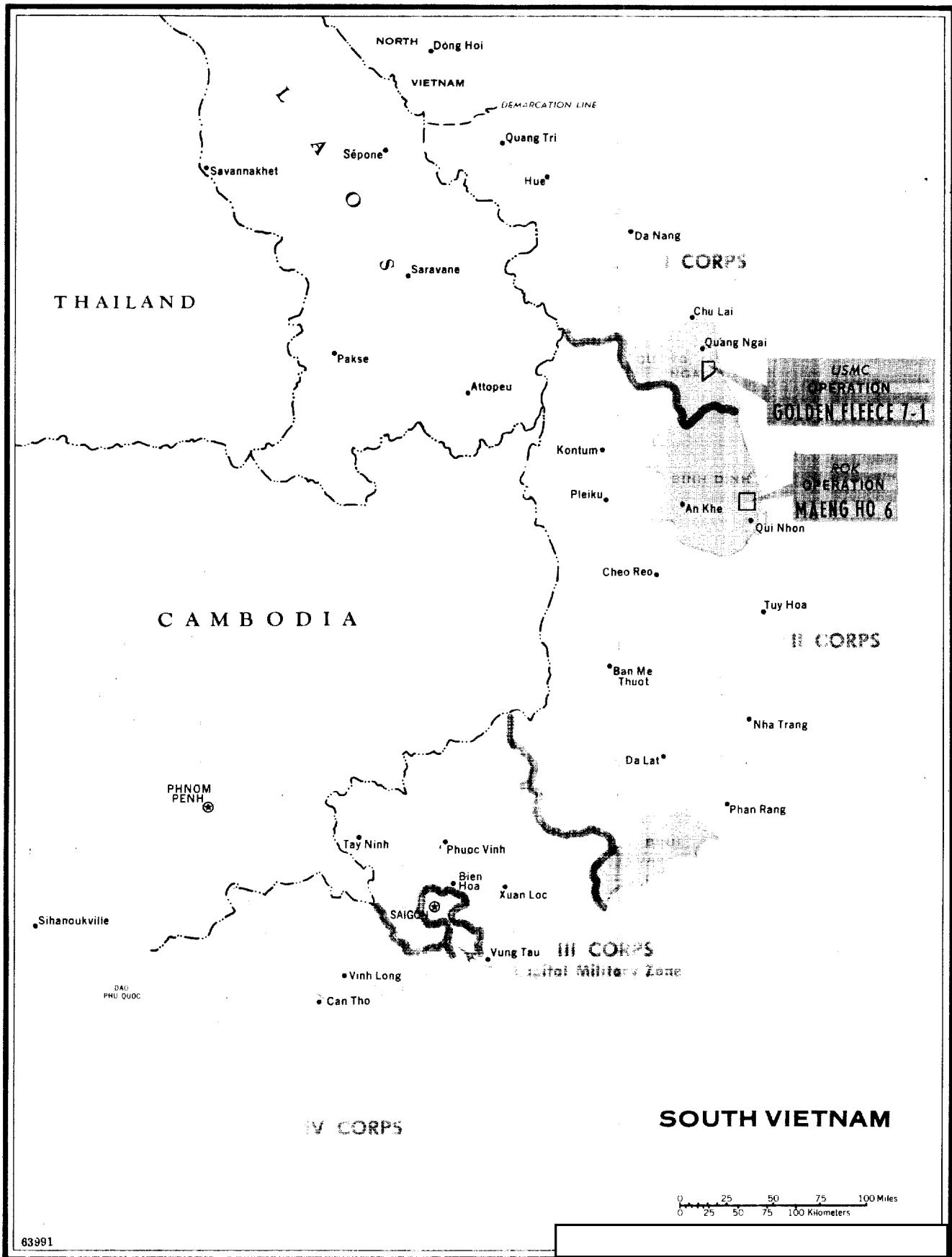
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Military Developments in South Vietnam: The focus of military activity during the past 48 hours has shifted from northernmost Quang Tri Province to the central coastal provinces that form the border between the I and II Corps areas.

Fighting between the Viet Cong and South Koreans near the capital of Binh Dinh Province has been fairly heavy. In the five days since Operation MAENG HO 6 began, the Koreans have reportedly killed some 300 Communists.

Twenty-seven more Viet Cong were killed yesterday by US Marines in Operation GOLDEN FLEECE 7-1, bringing the total since 16 September to 244. The Marines spotted a 300-man enemy force in an opening 11 miles from the Quang Ngai Province capital and called in artillery fire. They found the bodies later during a ground sweep of the area.

Noteworthy enemy-initiated activity yesterday was limited to a small mortar attack on the airstrip a few miles south of the Binh Thuan Province capital. Although the Viet Cong fired only five rounds, they wounded eight Americans and inflicted moderate damage on one of the five helicopters that were hit.

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France: France has indicated that its willingness to continue a role in the North Atlantic Council does not imply any intention to participate in the formulation of a "common political line" on east-west relationships.

The French representative to the Political Advisory Committee of the North Atlantic Council declined to participate in the drafting of a report on east-west relations covering the general objectives of the Alliance and NATO's role therein. He presented a written opinion that "a common political line" for east-west contact could create the impression that "two ideologically opposed blocs existed" and would destroy the climate of detente.

While De Gaulle stressed, when he withdrew French forces from NATO, that France remained firmly attached to the North Atlantic Council, it is clear that he will not allow the commitment to hamper his political maneuvers. He prefers a series of bilateral accords, which will permit him to reach separate understandings with his allies and former antagonists. [redacted]

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Nigeria: The security situation throughout the country is gradually deteriorating as the constitutional crisis drags on.

The tension which has prevailed since the bloody 29 July mutiny has encouraged a general atmosphere of lawlessness in which antagonistic elements are seizing the opportunity to settle old personal, political, and tribal scores. In the North, increasing violence is being focused against Ibo tribesmen from the Eastern region. In one recent incident gangs of Northern soldiers, civilians, and police are reported to have participated.

In Enugu last weekend Easterners for the first time attacked residents from the North. The presence in the East of tens of thousands of Ibo refugees from the North makes the security situation there particularly explosive.

Senior police officials now are pessimistic about their ability to maintain law and order. They claim that they cannot crack down on lawless elements while the army is undisciplined. Minor clashes have already occurred between army and police elements.

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NOTES

Venezuela: The attempted assassination of the director of the National Police on 15 September and the murder of the police representative to the joint operations center on 23 September are probably the work of the extreme left. On 24 September a telephone caller threatened all officers of the center with death. The center, which is made up of representatives of all branches of the Venezuelan armed forces, is responsible for directing counterinsurgency field operations.

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Mexico: Communist students are attempting to organize anti-US demonstrations during Secretary Rusk's visit to Mexico on Friday and Saturday. Mexican security officials are aware of these intentions and can be expected to maintain control. Secretary Rusk will attend inauguration ceremonies for the new Foreign Ministry building.

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